

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : MR. SULLIVAN
FROM : MR. BRAILGAN
SUBJECT: LEE HARVEY O

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. DeLoach
DATE: 2-10-64

1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Branigan
1 - Mr. Lenihan

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"The Nation" article for 1-27-64 reports that Houston "Post" reporter Lonnie Hudkins prepared an article entitled "Oswald Rumored as Informant for U.S." On 2-7-64 Inspector J. R. Malley, during a discussion with Mr. Rankin, brought up the allegation of Hudkins. Mr. Rankin stated that the Commission had no objection to the Bureau going right ahead with the contemplated interview with Hudkins in order to nail this situation down. Mr. Rankin requested that if Hudkins were interviewed, he would appreciate it if a signed statement could be obtained from him. He also stated in the event Hudkins attempted to rely on some source of his for the story and would not disclose the source, he had in mind calling Hudkins' employer and Hudkins before the Commission in order to obtain the true facts.

Dallas Office interviewed Hudkins 2-8-64 concerning the article he reported. Hudkins stated he came to Dallas in late December, 1963, to check out rumors Oswald may have been FBI informant. He stated this was based on information he had received from Assistant District Attorney William Alexander to the effect that Oswald's address book contained the name of Agent Hosty of the Dallas Office with home and office telephone numbers and automobile license number. Hudkins added he also interviewed Marguerite Oswald, mother of Lee Harvey Oswald, who said that Oswald was doing subversive work for the Government.

Hudkins further stated he contacted a Government official not a Federal official in Dallas who told him that Oswald was on the payroll of either the FBI or CIA with voucher number 179 and that Oswald received no less than \$150 per month nor more than \$225 a month. Hudkins related that this official had furnished him reliable information in the past which he had been able to print; however, he did not print anything stating Oswald was an FBI or CIA informant but merely raised this question in his article. He stated he had only this official's word and did not see any supporting documents of any kind to substantiate same.

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Hudkins further stated he made inquiries of friends in Houston whose names he would not divulge and also asked his Washington headquarters to attempt to check this story out. Hudkins related it could not be verified and, therefore, was not printed. Hudkins was questioned at length in an attempt to ascertain his source that Oswald was an FBI or CIA informant but Hudkins refused to divulge his source or to furnish signed statements. He stated when his source furnished him the alleged information that Oswald was an FBI or CIA informant, he was alone and no other reporters were present.

Hudkins further stated only other information he received that Oswald might be a symbol informant was from Joe Golden, a reporter with the "Philadelphia Inquirer." Hudkins stated Golden mentioned to him a number, different from 179, that might have been a voucher number but Hudkins could not recall the number.

At conclusion of interview of Hudkins he said that even if he were called to appear before the President's Commission, he would decline to furnish the source of the information alleging Oswald was an FBI or CIA informant.

We have interviewed Joseph Goulden, reporter for the "Philadelphia Inquirer" concerning a news article he prepared in the 12-3-63 issue of the "Philadelphia Inquirer," wherein he pointed out Lee Harvey Oswald had at one time been contacted by the FBI to become an informant. Goulden stated he obtained this information from a law enforcement officer in Dallas whom he declined to identify. Philadelphia Office reinterviewed Goulden on 12-16-63 in effort to pin down his allegation and determine identity of his source but Goulden declined to identify the law enforcement officer. Goulden claimed that his local enforcement officer source in Dallas told him the matter was being "handled through proper channels." Extensive inquiries by Dallas at Dallas Police Department failed to disclose any information that such allegation made a matter of record.

We have previously interviewed William Alexander concerning the allegation that Oswald was an FBI informant and Alexander has claimed that he overheard a group of reporters talking at the conclusion of the bond hearing for Jack Ruby in Dallas. He stated he heard one of these reporters whom he believed to be from the north and other reporters discussing the possibility Oswald was a counterspy for the FBI, CIA or some governmental agency. He remembered hearing the words special service mentioned and also remembered hearing some reporter make the statement Oswald was supposedly on the payroll of the Government at \$200 a month beginning

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In September, 1962, and that he had heard payroll number 179 or voucher 179 mentioned. Alexander stated he did not know the names of these reporters.

We have interviewed Joseph Goulden on two occasions and he refused to give the name of his source wherein he alleged that Oswald had at one time been contacted by the FBI to become an informant. However, inasmuch as the information from Hudkins which he attributes to Goulden is a little different and alleges Goulden aware that Oswald had symbol number, we are instructing Philadelphia recontact Goulden in this matter. Also, inasmuch as it appears William Alexander may well have been the source of the allegations that Oswald was an FBI informant with symbol number 179 and was on the Government payroll at \$200 a month, we are having Dallas confront Alexander and ask him point blank if his statements are true that he obtained such information from unnamed informant as he previously has alleged.

ACTION:

1. Attached is letter to J. Lee Rankin setting forth results of our interview with Lonnie Hudkins.

2. Attached is teletype to Dallas instructing Dallas to immediately contact William Alexander and confront him as to the truthfulness of his previous statements that he heard from unnamed group of reporters that Oswald was symbol number informant and was on the payroll of the Government at \$200 a month.

3. Attached is a teletype to SAC Philadelphia instructing that Joseph Goulden be recontacted in an effort to determine if he possesses information to the effect Oswald was a symbol number informant or any other information he might possess in this matter.